

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAHA 00316 260840Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /058 W

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O R 260805Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECSTATE WASHDC 1760

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFO MACHINATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: SELF-IMMOLATION INCIDENT

SUMMARY: THE SUICIDE BY GASOLINE AND FIRE OF APPARENTLY A

JAPANESE RADICAL EVENING JUNE 25 IN FRONT OF USAF KADENA

BASE GATE MAY PROVIDE A MARTYR AND THUS A FOCUS FOR LEFTIST

PROTESTS AGAINST THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT TO EXPO, OR EVEN FOR

PAGE 2 RHAIBQA3778 C O N F I D E N T I A L

DIRECT VIOLENCE AGAINST THE AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. AS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM USAF OSI, THE FACTS ON THE

SELF-IMMOLATION INCIDENT AS KNOWN SO FAR ARE THIS: ABOUT 9:30

PM A MAN WHO APPEARED IN HIS UPPER TWENTIES APPROACHED THE OKINAWA

CITY (KOZA) GATE 2 ENTRANCE TO KADENA BASE. WHILE STANDING SOMEWHAT

AWAY FROM THE GUARD BOX, WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, HE POURED GASOLINE

OVER HIMSELF AND LIT IT OFF WITH A LIGHTER. A FLAMING BALL OF FIRE,

HE THEN WALKED OVER TOWARDS A NEAR-BY PAWN SHOP (WHICH KEPT HIM

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PAGE 02 NAHA 00316 260840Z

OUT). WHILE BURNING HE WAS HEARD SAYING SLOGAN-LIKE SENTENCES

DENOUNCING THE CROWN PRINCE VISIT TO OPEN EXPO, URGING OKINAWANS TO "RISE UP," AND CONDEMNING THE USAF FOR "CARRYING AMMUNITION" AND "SHOWING FANGS TOWARDS KOREA." FROM WHAT COULD BE HEARD HE SOUNDED LIKE A PERSON FROM TOKYO. AFTER A NUMBER OF MINUTES PASSERSBY FINALLY EXTINGUISHED THE FIRE, BUT HE STILL STOOD THERE, INITIALLY RESISTING THE EFFORT OF A USAF AMBULANCE TO MOVE HIM. FINALLY, AFTER HE WEAKENED, HE WAS CARRIED OFF IN AN AMBULANCE TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL WHERE HE DIED LATER THAT NIGHT.

2. THE POLICE SO FAR DO NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON WHO HE IS ALTHOUGH THERE IS SUSPICION THAT HE IS CONNECTED WITH THE RADICALS

PAGE 3 RHAIBQA3778 C O N F I D E N T I A L

WHO RECENTLY DEFAECED THE CENOTAPHS AT SUICIDE CLIFF. HIS HANDS WERE RELATIVELY UNBURNED, AND THEY ARE TRYING AT PRESENT TO IDENTIFY HIM THROUGH HIS FINGERPRINTS.

3. THE POLICE ARE ALSO MAINTAINING AN EMBARGO ON THE STORY AT PRESENT. DESPITE THE SELF-IMMOLATION HAVING BEEN SEEN BY OVER A HUNDRED PEOPLE, SOME 18 HOURS LATER IT HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP AS A NEWS STORY.

4. COMMENT: THE STORY IS OBVIOUSLY A SENSATIONAL ONE, AND MAY GET HEAVY PLAY ONCE IT BREAKS. WHILE HIS ACT WILL NOT DRAW WIDE PUBLIC SYMPATHY, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO LEFTIST RADICALS PLANNING TO TARGET THE EXPO CONTEXT HERE. WITH THIS FIREY SUICIDE, THE LEFTISTS NOW HAVE A MARTYR WHOSE SACRIFICE COULD SPUR VIOLENT EFFORTS AGAINST THE CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT OR AGAINST THE AMERICAN PRESENCE ON OKINAWA. THUS, THE GENERAL TENSION AND DANGERS OF VIOLENCE CLOUDING THE OPENING OF EXPO COULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY HEIGHTENED.

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